

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 RSC-01 SIL-01

FMC-04 CG-00 L-03 PRS-01 PA-03 INRE-00 RSR-01 /053 W

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O 100630Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1223

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3775

DELIVER IN DEPT (EA/RA) AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 10

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, AS

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION OF MARITIME BAN ON
AMERICAN SHIPS

REF: (A) SYDNEY 1644; (B) STATE 132748

1. LABOR OFFICER MCHALE, CURRENTLY AT ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE
IN QUEENSLAND, DISCUSSED MARITIME BAN ON AMERICAN SHIPS
IN VICTORIA WITH ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE IN SURFER'S
PARADISE JULY 9 AND, ON TELEPHONE, WITH ACTU SECRETARY
SOUTER ON JULY 10. HAWKE IS FULLY ENGAGED IN PRESIDING
OVER ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE AND INDICATED HE WAS
LEAVING ACTION TO SOUTER.

2. SOUTER TOLD MCHALE ACTION BY WATERSIDE WORKERS'
FEDERATION IN MELBOURNE IN CALLING FOR BAN WAS "A DAMNED
SHAME." SOUTER SAID HE DID NOT THINK BAN WOULD SPREAD
OUTSIDE OF STATE OF VICTORIA. CHARLES FITZGIBBON,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION,
WHO IS NOT REPEAT NOT A COMMUNIST THOUGH HE HAS OFTEN
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SUPPORTED COMMUNIST CAUSES, HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ILO

MEETING IN GENEVA, AND SOUTER EXPECTS HE WILL APPLY BRAKES TO ANY EXPANSION OF BAN. SOUTER INTERPRETED TIMING OF MARITIME BAN AS HAVING BEEN CLEVERLY CHOSEN TO COINCIDE WITH ABSENCE OF TOP LEADERS OF ACTU AND WATERSIDE WORKERS IN EUROPE, WITH INTENT TO EMBARRASS HAWKE AND PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM.

3. BELIEVE SOUTER'S ANALYSIS (ABOVE) OF PRESENT SITUATION IS SOUND. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN CONFIRMATION THAT INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION BAN ON AUSTRALIAN SHIPS (REF B) HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. IF IT HAS NOT, WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ILA PRESIDENT TED GLEASON COULD BE PERSUADED TO WITHHOLD ACTION UNTIL ACTU SECRETARY SOUTER HAS HAD CHANCE TO DEAL WITH AUSTRALIAN BAN. AS REF A MAKES CLEAR, BAN HAS HAD LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT SO FAR ON AMERICAN SHIPS. COCOUNTERBAN ON AUSTRALIAN SHIPS AT THIS TIME MIGHT ONLY COMPLICATE DISSOLVING ORIGINAL BAN BY ONE STATE BRANCH OF WATERSIDE WORKERS' FEDERATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT SOUTHER'S ANALYSIS OF PRESENT SITUATION BE COMMUNICATED TO MARITIME SECTION OF AFL-CIO IF ILA COUNTERBAN HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC, REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE THAT IT SHOULD BE WITHHELD FOR TIME BEING TO PERMIT ACTU TO SETTLE MATTER.
DECONTROL JULY 31, 1974.
GREEN

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